

now among the oldest of my cotemporaries, I do not recollect that until within a few years past, I ever heard *the justice of slavery* defended. I think I may defy any scrip, sentence or paragraph from any document, journal or book in the United States openly professing such a sentiment previous to the message of Governor McDuffie to the Legislature of South Carolina some three or four years ago. So far from this, I had always heard of its injustice as an abstract question admitted and its existence lamented. And the only apology for its continuance was the difficulty, or, as it was conceived, the impossibility of getting clear of it without doing injustice, in a legal sense, to the owner, or to the slave, or both. Such, I believe, was the sentiment generally of intelligent and philanthropic men in the slaveholding States until recently. Such were my own until the discussion of the subject of colonization, and the success of that scheme, opened to my view a plan for the State of Kentucky to get clear of slavery and ultimately of the colored race by prospective and gradual emancipation, combined with the transportation to Liberia of those made free. This, it is true, could not be done without encountering what would be deemed hardship, if not injustice, by many masters as well as many colored people. But I satisfy myself by believing that the injustice or hardship, whatever extent it may reach under that plan, is less, far less, than the evil of slavery."

The following lines were written by Major Thomas Speed in 1806:

AUTUMN'S BREEZE.

When Autumn's breeze fans through the trees
 And leaves begin to fall,
 The leaves and wind bring to the mind
 The certain fate of all.

The breeze of time which constant blows
 On man with potent blast,
 Though one by one it overthrows,
 Still all must fall at last.

With man it is as with the leaves—
 Each springs from mother earth;
 They rise and grow, and fade and fall,
 To where they had their birth.

On the oak you'll see—the stateliest tree
 In all the forest round—
 Some leaves of humble, modest height,
 And scarce above the ground,